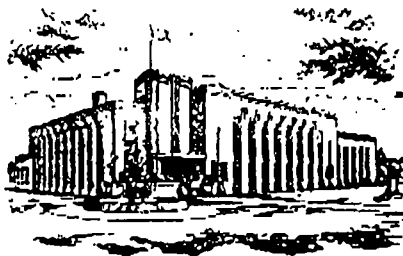


10.11.1

tony A. Igawa  
District No. 1

Michael J. Orr  
District No. 2

Malcolm Friedman  
District No. 3



Patsy Coleman  
Clerk of the Board

Nedue Larnihan  
Assistant Clerk

**Stevens County Commissioners**  
215 S. Oak Street, #214; Colville, WA 99114  
Phone (509) 684-3751 Fax (509) 684-8310  
E-mail: Learnhar@co.stevens.wa.us

GARY PASSMORE

May 19, 2003

MAY 28 RECD  
cc: Paki

Joseph A. Pakootas  
Business Council Chairman  
Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation  
PO Box 150  
Nespelem, WA 99155

Dear Chairman Pakootas,

The recent studies requested by your tribe and released by the EPA have shown levels of pollution in Lake Roosevelt. The limited studies and subsequent news releases point towards a potential listing on the National Resource Listing (NRL) as a "Superfund" site. Mr. John Iani, EPA Region 10 Administrator, has challenged us to come up with all possible local alternatives prior to making his decision to place Lake Roosevelt on the NRL as such a site. The Colville Tribe has been instrumental in spearheading these studies.

After extensive efforts, county commissioners from the counties which border Lake Roosevelt have, at their level, agreed to form the Upper Columbia Working Group for Responsible Stewardship. This group seeks to bring together all the entities which have vested interests in the use and operation of Lake Roosevelt, from the common citizen, the tribal nations, and the local, state and federal government agencies which have responsibility for Lake Roosevelt, including the EPA. The purpose is to unite in common cause and common purpose to plan the cleanup of Lake Roosevelt and the Columbia River.

We know this will take time. We want to cooperatively develop the plans which will bring forth the answers to the following three questions of public health issues, prior to going into further steps to cleaning up the lake.

- Are the fish safe to eat?
- Is the water safe to drink?
- Are the beaches safe to play on?

USEPA SF



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*Pakomias*  
*May 19, 2003*  
*Page 2 of 2*

These simple questions require complex studies to answer. The tribal lands which border the lake are affected directly. The county lands on either side of the lake outside of tribal boundaries are directly affected, as well as many other facets regarding the use of this lake. We all need to be together to solve this problem.

With great respect to the Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation, we wish to invite you or your designated representative to attend the formative conference to be held in Coulee Dam, WA on June 4<sup>th</sup>, 2003 at 8:30 a.m. at the Coulee Dam Town Hall Ballroom. You, or your representative, will need to be empowered to represent the tribe and aid in the formation of an operating group, selecting board members, outlining a scientific advisory committee, and outlining a scope of work for conducting the necessary studies. The conference is scheduled to adjourn at 5:00 PM, with lunch being served. Follow-on meetings will be scheduled during this conference.

As was indicated in Mr. Dave Godlewski's letter of May 8, 2003, we know that Teck Cominco American Incorporated will help facilitate these studies. There will also be a professional facilitator there to assist in the necessary discussions and official formation of the stewardship group. This is an opportunity to bring together in one room, a widely diverse group of interests with a common cause and purpose. We sincerely hope that you would personally attend this meeting. Your presence will help send a strong, clear message of concern to the highest levels at the EPA. As county commissioners, we want to join with you in taking cooperative actions leading to cleaning up the lake, stopping continued pollution of the waters, and building a better future for our children.

Sincerely,  
BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
OF STEVENS COUNTY, WASHINGTON

  
Merrill J. Ott, Commissioner

MJO:lmc